On the Classification of Extremal Doubly Even Self-Dual Codes with 2-Transitive Automorphism Groups

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Abstract

In this note, we complete the classification of extremal doubly even self-dual codes with 2-transitive automorphism groups.

Keywords extremal doubly even self-dual code, automorphism group, 2-transitive group
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1 Introduction

As described in [5], self-dual codes are an important class of linear codes for both theoretical and practical reasons. It is a fundamental problem to classify self-dual codes of modest lengths and determine the largest minimum weight among self-dual codes of that length (see [2, 5]). It was shown in [4] that the minimum weight d of a doubly even self-dual code of length n is bounded by $d \leq 4\lfloor \frac{n}{24} \rfloor + 4$. A doubly even self-dual code meeting the bound is called

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extremal. A common strategy for the problem whether there is an extremal doubly even self-dual code for a given length is to classify extremal doubly even self-dual codes with a given nontrivial automorphism group (see [2, 5]). Recently, Malevich and Willems [3] have shown that if C is an extremal doubly even self-dual code with a 2-transitive automorphism group then C is equivalent to one of the extended quadratic residue codes of lengths $8, 24, 32, 48, 80, 104$, the second-order Reed–Muller code of length 32 or a putative extremal doubly even self-dual code of length 1024 invariant under the group $T \rtimes \mathrm{SL}(2, 2^5)$, where T is an elementary abelian group of order 1024.

The aim of this note is to complete the classification of extremal doubly even self-dual codes with 2-transitive automorphism groups. This is completed by excluding the open case in the above characterization [3], using Theorem A in [1].

Theorem 1. *Let C be an extremal doubly even self-dual code with a 2-transitive automorphism group. Then C is equivalent to one of the the extended quadratic residue codes of lengths $8, 24, 32, 48, 80, 104$ or the second-order Reed–Muller code of length 32.*

2 Proof of Theorem 1

For an n-element set Ω, the power set $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ – the family of all subsets of Ω – is regarded as an n-dimensional binary vector space with the inner product $(X, Y) \equiv |X \cap Y| \pmod 2$ for $X, Y \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$. The *weight* of X is defined to be the integer $|X|$. A subspace C of $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ is called a *code* of length n. Note that all codes in this note are binary. The *dual code* $C^\perp$ of C is the set of all $X \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ satisfying $(X, Y) = 0$ for all $Y \in C$. A code C is said to be *self-orthogonal* if $C \subset C^\perp$, and *self-dual* if $C = C^\perp$. A *doubly even* code is a code whose codewords have weight a multiple of 4.

Let G be a permutation group on an n-element set Ω. We define the code $C(G, \Omega)$ by

$$C(G, \Omega) = \langle \mathrm{Fix}(\sigma) \mid \sigma \in I(G) \rangle^\perp,$$

where $I(G)$ denotes the set of involutions of G and $\mathrm{Fix}(\sigma)$ is the set of fixed points of σ on Ω.

Theorem 2 (Chigira, Harada and Kitazume [1])**.** *Let C be a binary self-orthogonal code of length n invariant under the group G. Then $C \subset C(G, \Omega)$.*

By using Theorem 2, some self-dual codes invariant under sporadic almost simple groups were constructed in [1]. In this note, we apply Theorem 2 to a family of 2-transitive groups containing the group $(2^{10}) \rtimes \mathrm{SL}(2, 2^5)$.

Let r, s be positive integers. We consider the following group G

$$G = T \rtimes H \quad (T = (2^r)^{2s}, H = \mathrm{SL}(2s, 2^r)),$$

where the group T is regarded as the natural module $GF(2^r)^{2s}$ of H. Here T acts regularly on T itself and H acts on T as the stabilizer of the unit of T, which is regarded as the zero vector of $GF(2^r)^{2s}$. Then G naturally acts 2-transitively on T.

Lemma 3. *There is no self-dual code of length 2^{2rs} invariant under $G = T \rtimes H$.*

Proof. By the fundamental theory of Jordan canonical forms in basic linear algebra, the dimension of the subspace of $GF(2^r)^{2s}$ spanned by the vectors fixed by an involution in $H = \mathrm{SL}(2s, 2^r)$ is equal to or greater than s. Then it is easily seen that there exist two involutions σ, τ in H such that each of them fixes some s-dimensional subspace of $GF(2^r)^{2s}$, and the zero vector is the only vector fixed by both of them (i.e. $T = \mathrm{Fix}(\sigma) \oplus \mathrm{Fix}(\tau)$). As codewords in $C(G, \Omega)^\perp$, the inner product $(\mathrm{Fix}(\sigma), \mathrm{Fix}(\tau))$ is equal to 1, since $|\,\mathrm{Fix}(\sigma) \cap \mathrm{Fix}(\tau)| = 1$. This yields that $C(G, T)^\perp$ is not self-orthogonal.

Suppose that B is a self-dual code invariant under G. By Theorem 2, $B \subset C(G, T)$. Since $B^\perp \supset C(G, T)^\perp$ and $B = B^\perp$, $C(G, T)^\perp$ is self-orthogonal. This is a contradiction. $\square$

The case $(r, s) = (5, 1)$ in the above lemma completes the proof of Theorem 1.

Remark 4. In the above proof, the cardinality of the fixed subspace of dimension s is 2^{rs}, which is smaller than the value $4\lfloor \frac{2^{2rs}}{24} \rfloor + 4$, except for the cases $(r, s) = (1, 2), (2, 1)$. This shows immediately that there is no extremal doubly even self-dual code of length 2^{2rs} invariant under the group $G = T \rtimes \mathrm{SL}(2s, 2^r)$ if $rs > 2$.

On the other hand, the smallest cardinality of the fixed subspace of an involution in $\mathrm{SL}(2s-1, 2^r)$ is 2^{rs}. If $s > 1$ then this number is smaller than the value $4\lfloor \frac{2^{(2s-1)r}}{24} \rfloor + 4$, except for the small cases $(r, s) = (1, 2), (1, 3), (2, 2)$. When $(r, s) = (1, 2)$ or $(1, 3)$, the code $C(G, T)$, for $G = T \rtimes \mathrm{SL}(2s-1, 2^r)$ where $T = (2^r)^{2s-1}$, is equivalent to the extended Hamming code of length 8,

or the second-order Reed–Muller code of length 32 (see [1, Example 2.10]), respectively. For the remaining case $(r, s) = (2, 2)$ (i.e. $G = T \rtimes \mathrm{SL}(3, 2^2)$, $T = 2^6$), the smallest cardinality of the fixed subspace of an involution is 16 (> 12), and so such an argument does not work. (Indeed the code $C(G, T)^{\perp}$ is self-orthogonal with minimum weight 16.)

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